STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Under Rule 52 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to lay on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by the Government under Section 16 (9) of the Legislative Council Regulation, II of 1097.

Item.	Amount. Rs.	Ch.	C.	Remarks.
Demand II—Education.	3,053	16	0	A grant to the Headquarters Council of the Boys Scouts Association for Travancore, to meet the recurring expenses for establishment and the pay of the paid Organising Scout Master.
Demand VI—Forest.	1,500	0	0	For the continuance to the end of 1102 of the temporary staff in the Conservator's Office and in the Divisional Forest Offices in connection with the payment of Kudivila on Royal trees felled from private compounds.

PRESIDENT: On a point raised by Mr. K. I Joseph during the last session of the Council regarding the President's power to disallow or amend or return for amendment questions given notice of by members on which I promised to give a ruling in this session, I rule that the President possesses such power as expressly laid down under Rules 10 and 11 of the Legislative Council Rules.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND I—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 47,200 for the construction of miles 4 to 12 of the Alleppey-Shertallai road, under Demand I—Public Works Department.

The people of Shertallai are at a great disadvantage in the matter of communications. The construction of roads being more costly in

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the sandy tracts than in other parts of the State, as almost all the materials for road making have to be brought from the eastern side of the Veinbanad lake, it was first thought that the opening of a canal between Alleppey and Shertallai would to a great extent meet the needs of communications in the taluk. But as the work proceeded, it became clear that the taluk could be supplied with a net-work of roads from end to end at a far less cost than the one canal from Alleppey to Shertallai. The cost of maintenance of a canal in the loose sand is also somewhat prohibitive. The Dewan inspected the canal works in August 1925 in company with the Dewan Peishkar, the Legislative Council Member for Shertallai and myself. After a full discussion of the matter, it was thought best to stop further expenditure on the extension of the canal and to concentrate attention on the roads.

About 3 miles at the Alleppey end and about another two miles at the Shertallai end of the canal have been finished and these may in course of time be connected with the backwater by means of short link canals. The further length of the main canal that remains to be excavated is eight miles, the construction of which is estimated to cost not less than eight lakhs of rupees. Of the Alleppey-Shertallai road which is about 15 miles long, 6 miles have already been finished from both ends so that there are only 9 miles, *i. e.*, miles 4 to 12, remaining to be constructed. For miles 4 to 8, there is a sanctioned estimate for Rs. 28,200. The remaining 4 miles are expected to cost Rs. 24,000. To take up and complete the work this year, funds to the extent of Rs. 5,000 are being found by diversion from sanctioned items. In view of the length of time the people of Shertallai have been kept waiting for their canals and roads, the Government consider it but proper to see that the through road from Alleppey to Shertallai at least be given them this year. The balance amount required for the work is Rs. 47,200 and I now move for this amount being voted as a supplementary grant.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know from Mr. Natesa Aiyar whether he has prepared an estimate for this road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have already mentioned that for miles 4 to 8 there is a sanctioned estimate for Rs. 28,200. The estimate for miles 9 to 12 has been called for and I hope to submit this to Government for sanction within a month.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know if this road when completed will be fit for traffic up to Shertallai town?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, for light traffic.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Will the Chief Engineer please explain what he means by light traffic?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): For ordinary cars and eight-seaters.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Will he extend this communication further north to the southern extremity of Cochin?

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MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, there is a sanctioned estimate for gravelling the road from Shertallai to Arur in the first section of 3 miles of which the work is in progress. The work from the Arur end to Kuthiattodu is also proposed to be taken up in the current year.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): If this is so, will he kindly revise the estimate for Shertalli to Arur?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The sanctioned estimate is intended for constructing only a cart road.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I just inform the Chief Engineer that the thickness of gravel is only 4 inches and breadth is not sufficient for carts and other carriages? Because this is the case, will he kindly revise the estimates?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The width proposed to be surfaced with gravel is 10 feet. Greater thickness will be provided after the sanctioned estimate is worked out as then only head load conveyance can be avoided and conveyance by carts will be possible and work done at a cheaper rate than now.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does the estimate for the Alleppey-Shertallai road provide protection on either side by laterite stones?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, protection will be provided as may be required.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does he not fear that the road will be washed away during rains?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The sandy berms of the road might be washed away and not the gravelled width.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Has he inspected the Arattangal road personally?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have inspected the Arattangal road and other roads as well.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is he satisfied with the condition he saw there?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, I was satisfied.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is not the road found difficult for cart traffic?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Cart traffic has yet to develop. When it is found difficult for cart traffic, necessary action will be taken.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Are there not complaints from the people that the work so far executed is quite unsatisfactory?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, there were; but the Executive Engineer has reported that the work has been done well.

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MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Can he not ascertain it himself?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): If there is further complaint, I shall certainly inspect the place. I have written to the Executive Engineer to report the present condition.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Can he not take his car?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Which way, please?

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is that the reason why he does not frequently visit the place?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): If there is real necessity, I am ready to inspect at any time. It is not a question of frequency.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Will he kindly inspect this place and satisfy himself as to the well-built nature of the road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I shall try to do so as early as possible.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): How long will it take to finish the road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): My information is that the road has been practically completed.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is he aware that some portion has yet to be acquired?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): May be, but I am not sure.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Will he be pleased to enquire into the details of all these matters?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have already called for a report from the Executive Engineer.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Will he be prepared to take up the construction of cart roads wherever found necessary throughout Shertallai?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I am doing it as will be seen from the Budget Estimates of the past 2 or 3 years.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): When there has been a proposal to suspend the main canal, was not the necessity for cross canals urged?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes. Two are already under construction, one near Tannirmukkam, and the other near Alleppey, *viz.*, Puttantodu and Madayantodu. The latter alone is estimated to cost about Rs. 1,20,000. Cross canals are also costly to construct. The taking up of other cross canals is under the consideration of Government and it is a question of funds.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is that a sufficient reason why the member does not look to the primary consideration of a taluk because of want of funds?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): As the member is aware, the Dewan himself expressed, when he was at Alleppey last August, that short cross canals would also be constructed.

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MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does the member concede that the opening of a country by a net work of canals and roads are the prime factors for the material advancement of the country?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes. It is quite obvious.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is not this matter of opening communications more important than primary education?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): As the head of the Public Works Department, I may say that I consider the opening of communications the most important function of the State.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Will he pay more attention to the material advancement of that taluk?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have already assured the member that I have taken and am still taking all possible steps for improving the communications in the Shertallai taluk.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I tell the member that he is taking so much interest only at the fag end of his official career?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the Chief Engineer whether the proposed construction of the road includes the section from Pazhaveed to Kallerkod?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): That is not a section of this road which was recently sanctioned. That is a local road elsewhere in Alleppey unconnected with this.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is he aware of the fact that when the present Dewan inspected the place he was of opinion that the road was necessary?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, he found that it was necessary. Accordingly an estimate was prepared and got sanctioned. As soon as funds are found and have been allotted, the road will be taken up.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What will be the southernmost point of the proposed road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Tumboli.

The demand was then put to the vote of the House and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND II—EDUCATION.

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 8,957 under Demand II—Education. The grant is made up of four items

Item (1) is a sum of Rs. 450 required in connection with the preparation of a Manual for the Education Department. The present Education and Inspection Codes were passed shortly after the creation of the office of the Director of Public Instruction in 1909. Since then, more than 16 years have elapsed and the Government have passed several orders involving amendments of the provisions of the Codes. Some of these have resulted in actual amendments. But in the case of several others, although the Government have passed orders involving changes in the provisions of the Codes, the changes have not been incorporated

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